



1962 *Appendix*

to

"THE FORT ON THE SASKATCHEWAN"

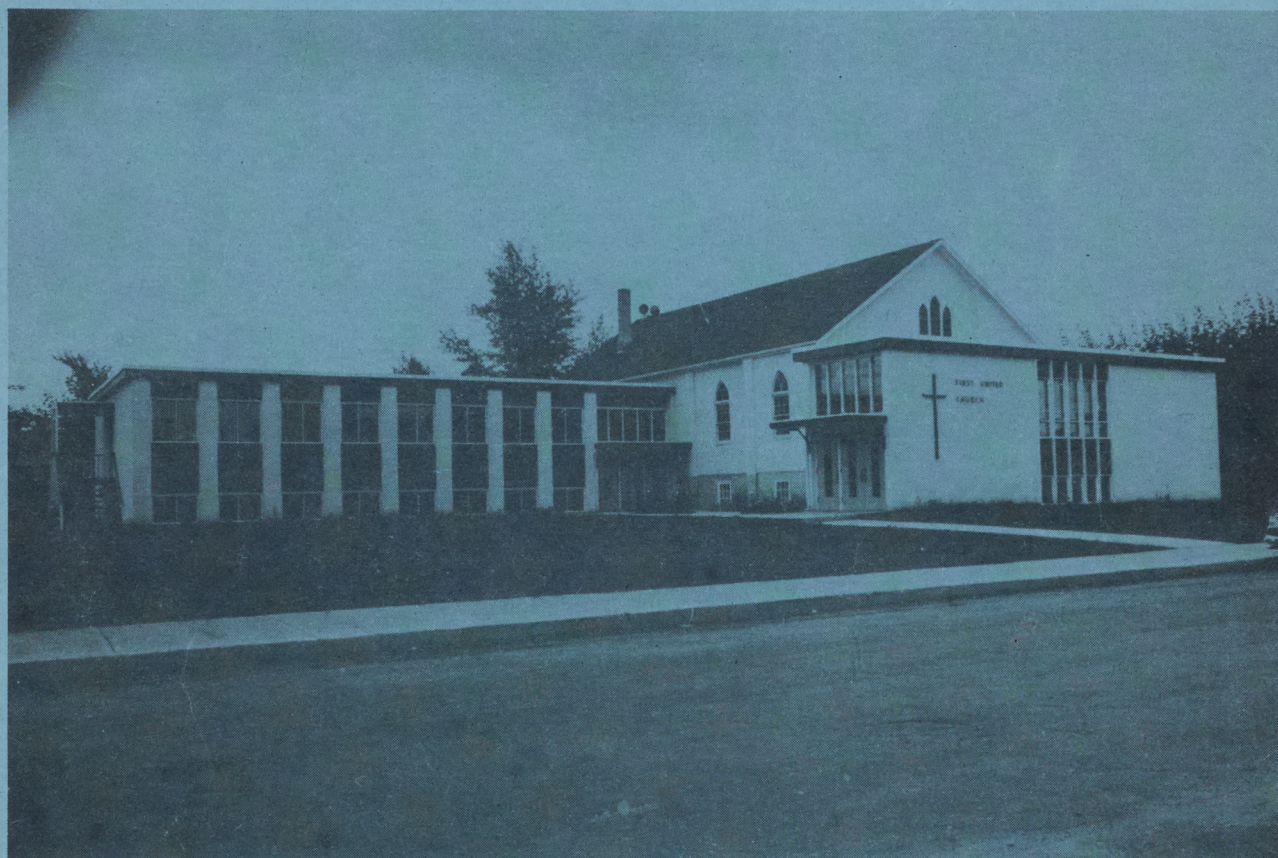


PHOTO by Dr.W.A. Johnstone

PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

75th Anniversary

of FIRST UNITED CHURCH, FORT SASKATCHEWAN

by

Peter T. Ream



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Preface

During the past five years, since the publication of "The Fort on the Saskatchewan", new material has come to light and new developments have taken place in Fort Saskatchewan. Certain errors have become apparent and need correction. The interest in the history of the Fort stimulated by the book has brought some interesting correspondence from 'old-timers' who used to live in the district, and many local residents have been combing their attics and basements for pictures of the old days and other relics of the past. We are grateful indeed to all those who have seen the need to preserve our heritage for posterity.

It seemed appropriate that the 75th Anniversary of First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan, should be marked by gathering together some of this material in a semi-permanent form. This pamphlet does not form a continuous narrative, but it is indicated where each item should be included in "The Fort on the Saskatchewan". All page numbers refer to this book. It is suggested that an 'X' be placed in the margin of the book at each point where there is a cross-reference to this pamphlet. In this way none of the new material will be overlooked when the book is read or referred to. Other material is sure to come to light in the coming years, and this could be gathered together in further appendices. Perhaps someone could be persuaded at the 100th Anniversary to rewrite the whole history of Fort Saskatchewan, incorporating the material gathered through the years, and so make of it a definitive work.

Peter T. Ream

74
First United Church Manse,
Fort Saskatchewan,
Alberta
September, 1962

1962 APPENDIX

T O

"THE FORT ON THE SASKATCHEWAN"

- p.11 "Buckingham House, across the river from Fort Vermilion". Both forts were on the north side of the river, about 25 miles apart.
- p.27 Further information on Fort Macleod. "The history of Fort Macleod dates back to 1874 and the arrival of the newly formed North West Mounted Police to provide law and order in the area. Construction of a fort on the Oldman River was commenced on October 13 of that year. Land in the area was gradually taken up for ranching purposes. In 1884 the townsite was moved a mile west of the original site to provide protection against spring river floods. The centre was granted a charter in 1892 and named the "Town of Macleod" in honor of N.W.M.P. Col. James F. Macleod. The Crow's Nest Pass Railway was completed by the CPR in 1898-99. On July 1, 1953, the town returned to its original name of Fort Macleod." (Alberta Industrial Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 5, November 1959, p.7)
- p.30 Concerning the choice of site for the fort and the original development of the townsite:
- "There are many stories told of the why and the wherefore of the selection of the present site for the division headquarters. Rumor has long had it that it was originally intended that the post should be at Edmonton, then the central post of the Hudson's Bay Company, but that friction arose between the officials of the company and Col. Jarvis, resulting in the withdrawal of the police to the present site. The Journal representative who

visited the Fort, however, believes that there is little foundation to the story. In conversation with some of the original police, he was informed that the colonel's instructions were to establish headquarters within twenty-five miles of the Hudson's Bay post. Edmonton was, at that time, far less open than at the present, and abundant feed for the horses close to the barracks was an absolute necessity. The fact that water was obtainable from the river only may also have carried some weight. At Fort Saskatchewan he found an open country, rich in grass, and water was obtainable by digging wells within the barracks, a most desirable advantage in case of siege. This was the crossing of the river for a large number of trails, a fact that may have had some influence in the choice. The division at that time consisted of about 150 men. It was not until ten years later, in the year 1884, that the first houses were built outside the barracks, the beginning of the present town.¹

"In passing it may also be mentioned that Fort Saskatchewan was the original crossing of the river surveyed for the C.P.R. by Sir Sandford Fleming in 1876, when the projected line crossed the mountains by the Yellowhead Pass.

"The townsite of Fort Saskatchewan was homesteaded by one of the earliest settlers, a man named Lang, from whom it was later purchased by a syndicate composed of Dr. E. A. Braithwaite, and Messrs. F. F. Timms, C. Bremner, Inspector Primrose of the Mounted Police, and Capt. Chalmers, killed in South Africa. The syndicate still owns the original townsite, making a yearly settlement with the town.

¹But see the advertisement in the Edmonton Bulletin for November 4th, 1882 (pages 72 and 74): "Remember the place, Haly's old store east of the fort." It would seem that there were buildings outside the barracks before 1884.

"Houses rapidly grew around the barracks and a village sprang into existence on the Lang farm ..."

(Quoted from the Second Section of the
Weekly Journal, Edmonton, Friday,
July 19th, 1907)

p.40 The picture, "Fort Saskatchewan, probably about 1885". A cut of the same picture appeared in R. C. Russell's book, "The Carlton Trail" (1955) on p.13. After correspondence with both Mr. Russell and the R.C.M.P., Regina, and after reviewing the evidence below¹, it seems certain that this is a picture of Fort Carlton, about 1872.

1 A letter from Mr. Russell, dated January 28th, 1958, states:

"With reference to my figure 5 of Fort Carlton, it was taken about 1872 and appears in Grant's "Ocean to Ocean" ... What I take to be the same fort appears in Peter Turner's work on the Mounted Police, Vol. II, p.96, but it is marked, erroneously I think, 1885." Grant's work referred to was published in London in 1873, and its full title is, "Ocean to Ocean, Sandford Fleming's Expedition Through Canada in 1872." The picture cannot be of Fort Saskatchewan, therefore, because the fort had not been built when this book was published. For the same reason Peter Turner's date of 1885 must be an error.

A letter from the R.C.M.P., Regina, dated March 3rd, 1958, indicates that this photograph also appears opposite p.90 of the book depicting the life of Col. S. B. Steele entitled, "Forty Years in Canada", by J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., in which it is shown as Fort Saskatchewan, but with no date given. A copy was taken of this picture and it was forwarded for inclusion in "The Fort on the Saskatchewan". Since the name of the fort in this picture was questioned it was compared with the photograph of Fort Carlton on p.96 of Vol. II of Peter Turner's work on the Mounted Police, and it was obviously the same picture. The letter goes on, "From subsequent enquiries, we now feel satisfied that the picture is actually that of Fort Carlton." A further letter dated April 2nd, 1958, stated, " ... the result of enquiries at Headquarters disclose that, while not entirely conclusive, photographs in Ottawa of Fort Carlton strongly indicate that the scene in question is actually of Fort Carlton rather than Fort Saskatchewan."

An examination of all these pictures makes it clear that they are all of the same fort. For this reason the inclusion of the picture in Grant's book, "Ocean to Ocean", published in 1873, would seem to be conclusive evidence.

p.47 'Rev. James Nisbit' should read 'Rev. James Nisbet'. In Mr. R. C. Russell's letter of January 28th, 1958, he says, "I have seen James Nisbet's name in several documents and Nisbet is the accepted spelling in most cases, including his own signature."

p.47 For a full account of Andrew Browning Baird's journey to Edmonton, see "The Beaver", Winter, 1959, p.4ff: "A Minister Takes the Carlton Trail", by R. C. Russell. Apparently Mr. Baird had been chosen by the Presbyterian Church to go as a pioneer missionary to Edmonton, and word of this reached him while he was still studying in Germany. He tried to check its location in an atlas, and was astonished to find the place where Edmonton should have appeared marked as 'unexplored territory'! We are also told that the horse Mr. Baird bought at Winnipeg rejoiced in the name of 'Shaganappi'.

p.51 An excellent picture of the S.S. 'Northcote' can be found in "The Beaver", Winter, 1957, p.55.

p.59 Footnote 1. The note concerning the transfer of the old log Church in 1895 was taken from a brief historical note at the beginning of the Presbyterian Communion Roll, October 1907, except that this record states that it was moved to the north-east corner. The 1905 photograph on p.94, however, shows clearly that it was actually the north-west corner, as indicated in the footnote. However, the date of 1895, mentioned in the Communion Roll, is now questioned. A picture of the Fort in 1893, according to the caption, shows the old log Church on the two-acre site at that time (the front page of the Second Section of the Weekly Journal, Edmonton, July 19th, 1907). A further reference to this picture appears on the back page of the same 1907 paper:

"The visitor in Fort Saskatchewan, if he has an half-hour to spare, will find it profitable and interesting to make the acquaintance of Mr. W. G. Ross. Mr. Ross is one of the oldest Old-Timers of the Fort. He was one of the original body of Northwest Mounted Police who formed in Winnipeg in 1873, and bore the regimental number 74. In 1875 he came west with the police and served through the troublous times of the following years, carrying despatches between Fort Pitt and Edmonton in the service of General Strange. To Mr. Ross the Journal is indebted for a unique photograph of the old town, taken in 1893, showing a house built by F. Fraser Timms in 1891, the old fort, and several buildings erected by Mr. Ross himself.

"At the present day Mr. Ross conducts a thriving real estate business on Government Street ..."

p.64 "Within a year or two", i.e. of 1895. The building of the Anglican Rectory must have taken place some years later. "The Reporter" for May 7th, 1903, mentions that preliminary steps were being taken by the Vestry with regard to building a Rectory . It must have been built, therefore, about 1903 or possibly 1904. An advertisement in that paper reads: "St. George's Guild will hold a Sale of Work and Comic Auction at the Barracks, Fort Saskatchewan, on the 8th of May, at 8 p.m. "Arbor Day", in aid of the Vicarage Fund ... Admission 10¢. Refreshments free." The Church column (in addition to announcing "All seats free") mentions Rev. G. C. d'Easum, R.D., M.A., as Vicar, and H. Wilson and Staff-Sergt. T. E. Patterson, N.W.M.P., as Wardens.

A fine, new, split-level Rectory was completed early in 1960, and the old Rectory, renamed St. George's Place, is now being used for Sunday School, small meetings and social events. Rev. S. H. F. Jarvis was Rector from January, 1955, to November, 1957, being succeeded by Rev.

C. C. MacPherson (May, 1958, to May, 1960). The present Rector, Rev. D. F. Moore, came in May, 1960.

p.68 Rev. John F. Krieger died suddenly in January, 1962, in the 27th year of his ministry at Josephburg. A United Church candidate for the ministry, Mr. D. G. Lewis, supplied the pulpit for a few months, and on May 1st, 1962, Rev. W. E. Frey, of the Moravian Church, became the Minister.

p.72 Footnote 1. The old log hotel has now been dismantled.

p.74 Footnote 1. Mr. Wm. H. Fluker, who came west in 1892, says that 'Nobby' White at one time was in the N.W.M.P. Afterwards he went into partnership with another man in a blacksmith's business, maybe for a couple of years or so. Then he ran the livery barn by himself. Mr. Fluker is not sure if he started it or took it over from someone else.

p.77 Footnote 2. Miss Walker's first name was Nellie.

p.79 The "Beaver Hills Chimes". Electronic chimes (as an organ attachment) were purchased by First United Church in 1960 with money from the Memorial Fund, but the old chimes were kept as an alternate method for playing. The name "Beaver Hills Chimes" was retained for the new chimes.

p.81 "The Reporter" for May 7th, 1903, records: "An Epworth League of C.E. was organized in the Methodist Church. It held its first meeting April 29th, with an attendance of about 35."

p.82 The opening of Partridge Hill Church also is mentioned in "The Reporter" for May 7th, 1903. "The Presbyterian church at Partridge Hill will be opened on Sabbath, May 17th. Services will be held by Rev. A. Forbes at 11 a.m., and by Rev. A. Aldridge at 7 p.m."

p.84 "The Reporter" for May 7th, 1903, states: "The Presbyterian church at Fort Saskatchewan, which has recently been undergoing repairs and in which new pews have been placed, will be reopened on Sabbath evening next. It is

expected that Rev. Mr. McQueen, of Edmonton, who is so well and favourably known here, will be present to conduct the services."

p.89 Footnote 2. The plaque commemorating the life of Agnes Sorrel Forbes will be replaced on the 75th Anniversary of First United Church, September 23rd, 1962. The original wording will be used on the new plaque.

p.92 Father M. Campbell arrived in Fort Saskatchewan in the late summer of 1961 to succeed Father R. Berube, who, however, continues his ministry at Lamoureux. The building of a Rectory immediately to the north of the Roman Catholic Church in Fort Saskatchewan was commenced in 1961, and Father Campbell took up residence there in the spring of 1962.

p.92 Here is the "Latest News", according to "The Reporter", May 7th, 1903:
"King Edward has returned to London ... Turtle Mountain at Frank is likely to fall ... The Toronto Telegram says the Barr colony is a mistake ... Ducks are more plentiful on the sloughs than on the table. "Too wild," say our sportsmen ... The road to Agricola is in very bad shape. This is a matter which will have to be taken up ... A well attended meeting took place to night protesting against the high rates charged on the ferry, and resolutions were passed asking the government to reduce them ... The stores here have adopted the early closing movement and will in future close at 7 p.m. except on Saturdays. This will continue in force to the 31st September¹."

p.92 Footnote 1. Additional information from the first issue of "The Reporter", May 7th, 1903. Apparently there were three livery stables in town according to the following quotation from the editorial: "The livery stables, "The Elk" and Dennis Avenue stable owned by Mr. Ellsworth Simmons

¹ September must have had an extra day in 1903!

and Mr. John Whitson and the "Farmers' Feed" owned by Mr. G. Steele do a very good business." An advertisement elsewhere in the paper reads: "The Elk, Livery and Feed Stable and Stage Line The stage leaves the Fort three times a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; returning from Edmonton on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Fare \$1.00 each way. Simmons & Whitson, Prop."

The drug store in the editorial is referred to as a "drug and book store", operated by Dr. Aylen and Mr. Seton W. Andeason, the sub-agent for Dominion lands. The relevant advertisement, however, refers to "Dr. P. Aylen, Proprietor", and another advertisement mentions "Insurance & Real Estate, Seton W. Andeason". One of the doctors, Dr. F. T. Bennett, had his residence and office on Dennis Avenue. The editorial refers to "Our young lawyer, Mr. S. A. Dickson, a graduate of Toronto University, and a very promising young man ...". The initials of Mr. Veitch who operated the saddlery (or as he advertised it, the "Harness Emporium") were 'R.J.'. R. E. Staples had just taken over the bakery from C. F. Davies, and another bakery was being operated in addition to this one. The manager of the Union Bank of Canada was Mr. Robert J. Gourley. Mr. Fred W. Ervin was the manager of the Cushing Bros.' Co., Ltd., lumber yard.

According to the editorial it would seem that there were three machine agencies in town with Mr. Clark and Mr. Unterschultz managing different ones: "Agricultural implements are rushing into and out of the Massey-Harris Co., the McCormick and the Frost & Wood warehouses, managed respectively by Messrs. J. E. Graham and McEvoy in the first and Messrs. Eugene Clark and Andrew Unterschultz in the others ...". Fred J. White had just opened his jewelry business. The editorial adds: "Mr. Biggs and Mr. Unterschultz do our blacksmithing and Mr. Graham is the carriage builder." It mentions also that Mr. Campbell was the Postmaster. One

advertisement in the paper reads: "Breed mares to a Standard Hambetonian Pure Breed Stallion ... T. J. Carscadden, Riverdale Farm." Another one advertises "House Painting, Paper Hanging, Kalsoming ... J. F. Sullivan."

p.93 J. M. Morgan should read J. M. Moran. Miss Pollard's name was Nettie, and she is now Mrs. Baptist, of Tofield. A letter from Mr. Kenneth Baptist, dated from Mundare on November 16th, 1959, says: " ... my Mother ... was an 1894 pioneer at the Fort. In fact, she was the former Miss Nettie Pollard whom you have mentioned as an early teacher. She is now nearly eighty-one, and is living at Tofield ... I lived in the Fort for six years and taught in the High School (1949 to 1955)."

Mrs. Baptist wrote in a letter dated April 11th, 1960, (slightly edited): "Being something of an old-timer there myself, I was one of the second C.P.R. colony arriving at Fort Saskatchewan from Ontario in April of 1894. I was 15 years of age and I was very thrilled with the new life in Alberta. Not so long after that Rev. Alex. Forbes (Presbyterian) and Rev. Geoffrey d'Easum (Anglican) arrived in town each with a bride, and they settled close to each other. Mrs. Forbes was, as you know, a graduate nurse, with special training for missionary work, and she filled a very urgent need. She was one of the grandest women I ever met, and was all things to all people. "A perfect woman, nobly planned." A complete history of her wonderful life at the Fort would fill a large book. We knew her very well because nurses and doctors were very scarce in those days. My mother was a practical nurse and Mrs. Forbes often called her in to help or to take over. Maternity was not then the technical operation that it has developed into now. But they did go through a dread epidemic of cholera infantum together at one time. Mrs. d'Easum was busy raising little Anglicans and mother was usually in attendance. By the way, Mrs. d'Easum is the only one of this group still

living. She is 87 and still writes me the most wonderful letters from her home in Victoria, B.C."

- p.93 The brick school was demolished in 1959, the material being used to construct the new Legion Hall on 101 Avenue and 101 Street. A phone call from Walter Thomas stated that when the school was being demolished the inscription of the date 1903 was discovered on the old part of the school. The relevant part of the editorial in "The Reporter" for May 7th, 1903, reads as follows: " ... an \$8,000 by-law was carried the other day with only one dissenting vote - and that one on the ground that it should have been \$20,000 instead - and a new and suitable school house will be erected as soon as material can be obtained."
- p.93 By-law No. 1 of the Town of Fort Saskatchewan was passed on July 23rd, 1904. It was concerned with the appointment of a town constable, Mr. Samuel M. Carlton, at a salary of \$480 per annum. By-law No. 2 appointed Mr. H. E. Daniel as the town's first secretary-treasurer at a salary of \$300 per annum. The mayor at this time was Mr. W. F. Langworthy.
- p.93 Land values in this period are illustrated by an advertisement placed in the Second Section of the Weekly Journal, Edmonton, July 19th, 1907, by Daniel & Fraser Real Estate: "Choice Farms from \$6 to \$25 per acre ... Our Snap This Month: Quarter Section, splendidly fenced, good buildings, first-class soil and water supply, 130 acres broken. \$17 per acre." Another advertisement reads: "Binders from \$150 to \$165, mowers for \$60, rakes for \$30, wagons for \$75 to \$80." A special bargain for Fair Day offered 10 yards of 15¢ English Print for \$1.00.

The Editor of the Fort Saskatchewan Reporter at this time was Mr. W. A. Pratten.

p.98 Further information for this period comes from "The Conservator" for Thursday, September 11th, 1913. An interesting news item reads: "We are pleased to see that the Fort garage is again open with a competent mechanic in charge. Mr. V. Dennington comes well recommended and has had a wide experience in cars, having served his apprenticeship in some of the well known shops in the old country. Whilst to the average man on the street the garage is not a matter of great importance, still the great increase in automobile owners, and the nearness of the Fort to Edmonton, makes the garage a great convenience to the car owner. We trust that this industry will increase, and that the Fort Garage will hold its reputation of being one of the best in the small towns along the line."

Various advertisements indicate current values. Mr. Staples was advertising peaches for preserving at \$1.25 per case. Mr. W. G. Ross was offering 50 lots at \$35 in different parts of the town. Preiczner's, on Government Street, had ham and bacon at 22¢, salt side bacon at 18¢, and home-made lard at 16¢. The Fort Saskatchewan Market included the following listings:

Wheat -

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| No. 1 Northern | .69 |
| Oats, No. 1 feed, extra | .22 |
| Barley, No. 3 | .27 |
| Potatoes, per bus. | .40 |
| Butter, per lb. | .20 |
| Eggs, per doz. | .25 |
| Beef cows per lb. | 5 |
| Steers, per lb. | 5 6 |
| Hogs, per lb. | 7 3-4 |

- p.103 The fire of January 21st, 1913. A. M. Carscadden stated that the figure of \$24,000 loss would represent the total value of the buildings only, not the stock. He himself had lost \$18,000 in the fire.
- p.109 J. D. McLean retired in March, 1959, after being Warden of the Gaol for about 35 years, and T. Holt became the new Warden. Mr. Holt will be retiring in November, 1962. A new kitchen for the Gaol was built in 1960, and at the same time the dining room was extended. Further construction took place during 1961, and the new administration wing at the front was opened in October, 1961.
- p.126 The Manse, sold for \$350, was purchased by Mr. Joe Latour.
- p.128 Delete the parenthesis "the present High School". This school is now known as the Park Elementary School. The new High School, referred to on page 131, was completed and the official opening was held on September 26th, 1958.
- p.129 Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. has continued its development over the past five years. Two major expansions have taken place in the ammonia plant (1959 and 1962) which now will produce 225 tons per day. The Research and Development Division installed a rolling mill in 1961, which produces strip, rod and wire forms from nickel and cobalt powder. A novel development from this has been the production of blanks for Canadian nickels, the first time that these blanks have been produced in Canada. The first nickels made from these blanks were issued by the Canadian Mint in January, 1962. The most recent development at the plant was the construction during 1962 of a urea plant at a cost of approximately three million dollars. Urea is a nitrogen fertilizer, a raw material for plastics and adhesives, and a food additive for cattle. Employment still remains at a figure of about 650 men.

p.130 Peace River Glass Co. Ltd. installed its own glass furnace in 1958 and began the manufacture of glass rods in February, 1959. This special electrical glass-melting furnace originated and was designed in England. At the time that it was installed the furnace was the first of its kind in the glass industry on the North American continent, though now there is another one in the United States. The cost of the furnace was about \$260,000. Another new machine costing about \$150,000 was installed in 1959, and in January, 1960, it began production of pipe coverings for insulation purposes. Another new product of the company is shingles and roofing materials. In Fort Saskatchewan this product has been used in such places as the flat roof of the Christian Education Building of First United Church, the roof of the storage shed of the new urea plant at Sherritt Gordon, and the new administration building at the Gaol. Mr. W. H. W. Schuller remained President of the company until September, 1961, when he returned to Europe. Mr. J. M. Pretty is now the President, and continues his position as General Manager.

p.130 During the past five-year period a new major industry was located in the Fort Saskatchewan area - Dow Chemical of Canada, Limited. This is the first time that Dow has established production plants in western Canada (along with the Ladner, B.C., plant which was built about the same time). Dow Chemical of Canada was incorporated in 1942 and after the war acquired about 200 acres in Sarnia, Ontario, which became the Canadian headquarters for the company. At Sarnia there are some 15 plants manufacturing about 25 products. In 1959 the company acquired a 675-acre site immediately to the east of the Town of Fort Saskatchewan, and the construction of three plants was commenced in the fall of 1960. These multi-million dollar plants were completed during the summer of 1961 and they have been in continuous operation since that time. Employment

in all phases of the operation at the present time runs at over 50 persons.

One plant produces ethylene glycols which are used in the manufacture of antifreeze and for water removal from natural gas prior to pipeline shipment. They are used also in the manufacture of such diverse products as dynamite, shampoos, cigarettes, printing ink, and glue. A second plant produces ethanolamines which are widely used for hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide removal from natural gas. They are used also in the manufacture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T type weed killers, in the manufacture of neutral and non-irritating soaps and cosmetics, and as emulsifying agents for textile lubricants and polishing compounds. The third plant produces chlorinated phenols, of which pentachlorophenol is used widely as a wood preservative for the treatment of such products as railway cross-ties, fence posts, and wood piling. The 2,4-dichlorophenol is also used in the manufacture of 2,4-D type weed killers.

Dow Chemical also operates other plants in Ladner, B.C., Calgary, Burlington, Ont., Toronto, and Montreal.

p.131 The population of Fort Saskatchewan in 1962 reached the figure of 3497. The property assessment had jumped to \$9,362,600, the increase being due mainly to the incorporation into the town in 1958 of the properties of Sheritt Gordon, Inland Chemical and Peace River Glass. Further developments during the past five years include the completion of the sidewalk and curbing programme, in which 18 miles of sidewalk and 24 miles of curbing have been laid. A new bridge on Highway 15 was opened officially on October 23rd, 1957. For many years the old highway had crossed the river via the C.N.R. railway bridge, necessitating one-way traffic with lights regulating the passage of cars each way. When the new bridge was opened, the old road deck below the railway tracks was closed and dismantled. After many years of struggling with inadequate quarters in the basement of the Community Hall, the Library was moved in

1962 to a new building which was erected behind the Post Office during the winter of 1961/62. The new Library was opened officially on June 2nd, 1962.

p.132 The congregation of the Church of the Nazarene was organized officially in 1958. Rev. Wm. C. Baptiste (who still lives in the Fort) resigned as Minister of the Church in 1960, being succeeded by Rev. Elmer Brunton, the present Minister, in September of the same year.

p.132 The history of Christ Lutheran Church, as recorded in the booklet mimeographed for the dedication of the Church, indicates that Church services were begun in the old Legion Hall (above the Town Hall) by Rev. F. A. Schole in December, 1953. "In February 1955, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a congregation in Fort Saskatchewan. At this meeting Constitution discussion took place and a committee was organized to draw up a suitable Constitution." In February, 1956, the proposed Constitution was discussed again and after a few revisions it was accepted on May 13th, 1956. Application for membership was made to Synod. Officers were elected in June, 1956, at which time a building committee was elected. It was decided that the lot held by the congregation was unsuitable for a church building, and an exchange of property was made with the Town of Fort Saskatchewan. In February, 1957, it was decided to proceed with building, and construction commenced in June. The dedication took place on November 17th, 1957. Rev. F. A. Schole was called to Leduc, Alberta, and Rev. W. H. Eifert was called in his place to serve both Bethany and the Fort Saskatchewan congregations. He was installed on April 22nd, 1956. Mr. Eifert left late in 1960 for British Columbia, and Rev. C. R. Baron, the present Minister, came at the end of March, 1961.

p.135 Further improvements have been made to the Partridge Hill Church. New memorial pews were placed in the Church in 1959. The basement floor was in very bad shape, and in 1960 a new green-tinted cement floor was poured. The same year the old Partridge Hill school bell was purchased for \$1 and installed on the tower. It had a sentimental sound for many residents of the area. Once it had called them to school: now it calls both them and their children to Church and Sunday School. In 1961 steps were taken to transform the old vestry at the back of the Church. This had become a 'catch-all', but during the winter of 1961/62 insulation, mahogany siding, a ceiling and wiring were installed, most of the work being done by volunteer labour. Some finishing remains to be done, but when completed this will make a very fine addition to the facilities of the Church.

p.135 Footnote 1. A plaque in memory of Mrs. E. Clark will be placed in the new extension to the front of First United Church on the 75th Anniversary, September 23rd, 1962. The inscription will read as follows:

To The Glory Of God

And In Memory Of

Gertrude Wealthy Clark

1874 - 1955

p.136 First United Church has continued its progress and dewelopment during the past five years. The 'Diamond' property (3 lots) next to the road allowance east of the Church was purchased with an eye to future dewelopment. The 'Diamond' house was rented for a while and then sold to the Hutterite Colony at Scotford who removed it and levelled the property. Later the road allowance between the two Church properties was cancelled and bought from the town, giving the Church a total of over 300 feet of property. After close examination of the likely future dewelopment of

the town and of the needs of the Church, a master plan was drawn up for the expansion of the Church facilities, Mr. H. Bouey, of McKernan and Bouey, being retained as architect. It was decided to build in stages, the first stage being a Christian Education Building and a new front to the present Church which would harmonize with all future construction. The second stage was to be a new Church adjoining the Christian Education Building to the east. The third stage was planned tentatively as a chapel to the east again. The rest of the property would serve as a parking lot. Any development beyond this would take the form of a new Church located in a different area of the town. In this way great vision has been shown by the congregation, which has looked well into the future in the planning of the work of The United Church of Canada in this district.

The first stage was completed in 1961, with Petroski Construction Co., Ltd., as the contractors. The balcony, cloakroom and stairway were removed, giving added length to the present Church, and the new front was added. To the east, the Christian Education Building was constructed, again with an eye to future expansion. At present all rooms are being used for Sunday School classes, though provision has been made for a future secretary's office and Minister's study. Some of the rooms double for other purposes. One is the Church Library and audio-visual room. The Choir Room is at the east end where it will be close to the projected new Church. A new kitchen has been designed at the west end, close to the present Church which will become the Church Hall in the next stage of development. The new building was dedicated by the Chairman of the Edmonton Presbytery, Rev. W. Aitken Harvey, of Strathearn United Church, Edmonton, on the 74th Anniversary of First United Church, September 24th, 1961. By the close of 1961 the number of students enrolled in the Sunday School had risen to 330, and the Church membership was reported as 352.

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| p.140 | George W. Sparling | 1901 to 1903. According to two letters received in 1958 he taught school in Josephburg from January 1st, 1900, to September 30th, 1901. His brother came and finished the year 1901. His probation began on September 30th, 1901, and continued till June 30th, 1902, for one year's credit. Then he continued preaching until June 30th, 1903, for his second year's credit. He went to Wesley College, Winnipeg, in 1903, and was graduated in 1906. He then went to Victoria College, Toronto, for one year, and in 1907 he went to China. In answer to a question about S. H. Kruger he wonders if he was a worker in the German community in the area. |
| | J. F. Woodsworth | July, 1905 to June, 1906 (according to a letter dated September 12th, 1958). |
| | Samuel Webster | Summer, 1909 |
| | David Simpson | October, 1909 to May, 1910 |
| p.141 | C. E. Rogers | Summer, 1910 |
| | David Simpson | October, 1910 to May, 1911 |
| | Bert Waddington | Summer, 1911 |
| | David Simpson | October, 1911 to June, 1912 (until his ordination) |
| | Sidney Pike | May, 1913 to September, 1913 - summer supply Winter, 1913/14 - supplied from College May, 1914 to September, 1914 - summer supply Winter, 1914/15 - supplied from College |
| | C. B. Wilson | Appointed May, 1914 |

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